



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks Fire Update

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Park Fire Crews Busy With New Lightning Fires

Over the last week, fire crews at Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks have been busy responding to lightning fires caused by recent thunderstorm activity. Since July 17, crews have discovered 21 fires in the parks. Of these, seven have been or will be suppressed at less than two acres each. The other 14 fires will be managed using a “wildland fire use” strategy which allows for natural spread to improve forest conditions. This strategy is utilized when there is low risk for people and development but high potential for positive effects by allowing the natural process of fire. All of the current fire use projects are less than a quarter-acre each.

In Sequoia National Park, five suppression fires (Eagle, Trail, Castle, Alta, and Little Sand) are located in the Middle Fork Kaweah River drainage. Two other suppression fires (Evelyn and South Fork) were contained by July 20 (one in the East Fork and one in the South Fork Kaweah River drainage). Seven additional fires are identified as wildland fire use: one in the North Fork Kaweah River drainage (Jennie), one in Marble Fork Kaweah River drainage (Silliman), three in the East Fork Kaweah River drainage (Tar, White Chief, and Paradise), and two in the Kern River drainage (Coyote and Chagoopa).

In Kings Canyon National Park, the remaining seven fires are all being managed as wildland fire use. The Burnt and Dead Pines fires are located in the Middle Fork Kings River drainage. The Crescent, Ellis, Roaring, Scenic, and Rae fires are located in the South Fork Kings River drainage.

“I’m very pleased with the performance of our crews this week,” said Dave Bartlett, Fire Management Officer. “They are demonstrating their ability to respond quickly and safely.”

Fire managers expect to find more fires over the next week, especially if this weather pattern continues. Currently, park fire crews are able to respond to these fires without assistance from outside resources. However, the parks are working closely with the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, the Sierra National Forest, and the Sequoia National Forest.

Mineral King Road

On Thursday, July 20, runoff from intense rainfall caused debris to wash over the Mineral King Road near Silver City in the area of last year’s Highbridge Prescribed Fire. Park employees estimated that the area received three to five inches of rain in less than one hour. Park maintenance crews worked quickly to open the road for visitors and local residents.

www.nps.gov/seki/fire/fireinfo/current.htm